COMMANDERS DIGEST

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE • WASHINGTON, D.C.

Vol. 2, No. 26 March 30, 1966

Manpower Management Gets Special Attention from DOD

Increased emphasis on manpower management continues to receive special attention by the Defense Department to enhance effectiveness and productivity.

An evaluation of manpower policies is planned "to assure equal opportunity to all personnel in furtherance of National Policy objectives," according to Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower) Thomas D. Morris.

Key goals listed by Secretary Morris to improve manpower management include:

Compensating and rewarding each individual in accordance with his contribution, maintaining the principle of comparability with private enterprise as fully as practicable;

Maintaining living and working conditions which are conducive to high standards of health, morale and performance; and

Making continuous progress in assuring equal opportunities to all segments of our society.

Actions planned to improve manpower management pertain to the overall personnel structure—military and civilian.

Increased Health Benefits Sought in 3 DOD Proposals

Provisions for outpatient care in civilian facilities are included in three DOD legislative proposals submitted to Congress to provide increased health benefits for active duty dependents and retirees.

DOD manpower officials and surgeons general of the military departments have endorsed the bills.

Each covers a different phase of the medicare program.

H.R. 13582 would permit a general expansion of medical care benefits available to dependents in Uniformed Services facilities and would permit civilian outpatient care for dependents.

H.R. 13582 would authorize a program of assured medical care for retired members of the Uniformed Services and their dependents. This program would, for practical purposes, be identical to that provided families of active duty members.

H.R. 9721 would, with DOD recommended changes, authorize a specific program for mentally and physically handicapped children of active duty personnel.

CINCLANT PLANNERS — Senior officers on the staff of the Commander in Chief Atlantic, discuss possible operations within the Atlantic Ocean area. Members of the unified planning staff are (from left) Col. Jacob E. Glick, USMC; Lt. Col. Ralph J. Davis, USA; Col. Hadley B. Eilker, USAF; and Capt. Hugh M. Garvey, USN.

New Criteria Okayed For Air Medal Awards

Air Force has approved new criteria for award of the Air Medal for sustained aerial activities in Southeast Asia.

The criteria sets up normal requirement for the medal as 10 combat missions over North Vietnam, 20 combat operational missions over South Vietnam and other areas of Southeast Asia, or 35 combat support missions originating or terminating in South Vietnam or over hostile areas of South Vietnam, North Vietnam, Laos or adjacent waters. Air refueling flights over North Vietnam count as two combat support missions.

Commanders may recommend the Air Medal for crew members with fewer missions if they rotate prior to flying the prescribed number of missions and if they have not been awarded the Air Medal during current tour in Southeast Asia.

Air Force has emphasized that the criteria is a minimum basis for submitting award recommendations and does not infer automatic approval.

Washington Memos

PRESIDENT JOHNSON DECLARED a major disaster for Minnesota because of imminent flood threat, March 22. The declaration, at request of Gov. Karl F. Rolvaag, makes an initial allocation of $500,000 available to the state. Heavy runoff from unusually severe snowstorms is expected to cause flooding along Red and Mississippi Rivers' headwaters areas.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE has instructed Departments of Army and Air Force to discontinue purchase of butter until further notice due to rising costs. Margarine will be substituted. Price has risen as much as eight cents for patties and is expected to continue rising.

GOAL OF 11,000 ARMY OCS graduates for FY67 has been established. Aggressive recruiting is called for to continue meeting expanded OCS program.

THE NIAGARA FALLS (AFS-3), third of a new class of combat store ships, was launched March 26 at National Steel and Shipbuilding Co., San Diego, Calif. Ship is scheduled for commissioning in December 1966.

OUTSTANDING U.S. SAVINGS BONDS, as well as those currently being sold, are now earning more interest than ever before. Americans own a total of more than $49 billion worth of E and H Bonds.

GEN. DWIGHT E. BEACH, commanding general, 8th Army, Korea, praised the efficiency and skill of 38th Arty. Bde., on its 5th anniversary in Korea March 21. The unit was reactivated in 1961.

OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH SHIP USNS De Steiguer (AGOR-12) launched March 21, at Gunderson Brothers Engineering Corp., Portland, Oreg. Ship will be floating laboratory for National Oceanographic Research Program.

SELECTIVE RETENTION IS theme of two films being field distributed by Army. "Something to Build On" is for first-termers, explaining second term benefits. "The Company We Keep" is for unit commanders, other officers and non-commissioned officers, providing guidance for reenlistment counseling.

ARMY'S ADVANCED AERIAL Fire Support System (AAFSS) is designed for twice the speed of armed helicopters now in RVN. In battle, AAFSS's two-man crew will use varied weapons including machine guns, grenade launchers, rockets and anti-tank missiles. System is Army's highest priority aircraft program.

FIRST IN SERIES of countrywide meetings to brief representatives of business firms holding defense contracts or expecting to is being held at Baltimore, Md., March 30. Representatives will be briefed on technical details of priorities and allocations procedures under Defense Productions Act, including Defense Materials System and Priorities regulations.

NAVY AVIATION SUPPLY Office, Philadelphia, Pa., has developed system of short cuts to fill emergency needs of aircraft operating in the RVN. Called "Project Tiger Tom," program has filled average of 500 emergency requisitions a week since its inception in February 1966.

U.S. COAST GUARD WILL change the home port of icebreaker Westwind from Brooklyn, N. Y., to Baltimore, Md., in May and two of five Navy icebreakers the Coast Guard is taking over by Nov. 1, 1966, will be reassigned to Long Beach, Calif. The Glacier will move from Boston, Mass.; the Burton Island from Seattle, Wash.

AIR FORCE HAS sent an Air Traffic Control Team to RVN to initiate all-weather tactical flying operations. Establishment of an Air Traffic Regulation Center (ATRC) will provide air traffic control under instrument flight rules within combat areas.

TROOPS IN VIETNAM have received about three million square feet of neoprene-coated nylon membrane for rapidly surfacing aircraft landing facilities. Material can be hand placed by troops allowing air operations to continue in remote areas during wet weather and reducing dust hazard during dry weather.

NAVAL MISSILE CENTER'S $1.5 million Systems Integration Laboratory was dedicated at Point Mugu, Calif., March 16, by Dr. Gerald W. Johnson, Director, Navy Laboratories, Washington. Laboratory simulates missile weapons systems for testing and can also direct missile-carrying aircraft into position for launching missiles.

FIRST WORLD-WIDE Sea Survival Symposium was held recently at Langley AFB, Va., with conferees from U.S. armed forces, The Netherlands, Canada, United Kingdom and two commercial airlines. Held at TAC's Sea Survival School, the conference included lectures, briefings and demonstrations.

ARMY ENGINEERS ARE diverting water from Florida's Lake Okeechobee to the sea in an effort to lower its surface to a safe level before hurricane season begins. Heavy late winter rains are raising lake's water levels faster than water can be moved to central and southern Florida Flood Control Project's three big conservation areas.

AIR UNIVERSITY'S BOARD of Visitors met at Maxwell AFB, Ala., March 28, to evaluate educational program of the University. At conclusion of four-day meeting, the board's recommendations will be submitted to Lt. Gen. John W. Carpenter III, commander of the University.

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Published semi-weekly by the Armed Forces News Bureau, a unified activity of the Directorate for Armed Forces Information and Education, OASD(M). This publication contains official information, news and policy, direct from Washington authorized sources. Reproduction of content is authorized. Suggested dateline for materials used is WASHINGTON (AFNB).

1948 NSLI Dividend Already Paid, Says VA

A rumor concerning payment of a 1948 National Service Life Insurance (NSLI) dividend is causing disappointment to many individuals who query the Veterans Administration.

More than 750,000 letters have been received by VA offices since the hoax began last year.

"It is discouraging," according to the VA, "especially since the questioner has to be informed that he has already received such a dividend.

"No such queries have been requested by the VA," officials noted, "since 16 million holders of the WW II NSLI policy have already received the 1948 dividend that was paid in 1950."

This was the first NSLI dividend, officials said, and total payment reached approximately $3 billion.

XB-70 Flight Research Program Scheduled to Begin This Spring

An 18-month flight research program of USAF's supersonic XB-70 experimental aircraft, costing more than $50 million, will start this spring.

The program will be a joint effort by Air Force and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). It will begin after the current XB-70 flight test program is completed.

NASA has installed additional instruments, recording equipment and other gear in two XB-70s to obtain information considered valuable to the national supersonic transport program.

The XB-70 is the only aircraft of approximately the size and weight of projected supersonic transports able to cruise at more than 2,000 mph. It first exceeded that speed Oct. 14, 1965. A second XB-70 reached Mach 3 Jan. 3, 1966.

Non-Resident Servicemen Eligible For California Vehicle Fee Refund

Non-resident servicemen who registered a motor vehicle in California during the past three years are now entitled to a refund.

A recent court decision ruled, under the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act, non-resident military personnel in California do not have to pay a two percent fee on the value of the vehicle when registering it. The state has now announced it will refund any fees paid within the last three years and accept for consideration claims for fees paid before that time.

Servicemen who have left California may obtain an application form by writing: California Department of Motor Vehicles, P.O. Box 1319, Sacramento, Calif. 95806.

FROM OUT TO IN — Astronaut Capt. James A. Lovell Jr., USN (left), exchanges plaques with Capt. D. M. Miller (center) and Cdr. R. N. Williams, respective Blue and Gold crew COs of nuclear submarine USS Benjamin Franklin, to commemorate first Polaris launch in support of Gemini 7 space flight Dec. 6, 1965. The Franklin-fired missile was tracked by the orbiting spacemen.

All Army Personnel to Get Bubonic Plague Innoculation

All Army personnel are scheduled to receive a 1cc bubonic plague "sensitizing" innoculation by June 30 to insure faster protection against the contagious disease carried by fleas from infected rats in some areas of the world.

Personnel who have already been innoculated as a result of duty in South Vietnam, or some other part of the world where the plague is found, are excepted.

A second plague shot of .2cc is generally given when an individual receives orders for assignment to Southeast Asia. Follow-up plague shots are given periodically to sustain immunization.

Shipping Situation to RVN Improving, Says MSTS Chief

"The shipping situation to South Vietnam is improving," according to VAdm. Glynn R. Donaho, USN, Commander, Military Sea Transportation Service.

In testimony before the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, he noted "there are ships in adequate numbers in ratio to port capability to receive cargo."

Appearing before the committee to relate MSTS experience in providing shipping to support military operations in Southeast Asia, VAdm. Donaho said, "We are getting greater productivity, faster turnarounds."

MSTS is holding ships in out-ports less and less, he explained, plus learning valuable lessons and capitalizing on them.

Modified M-60 MG Field Tested by Army

A modified M-60 machine gun has been field tested by the Army Infantry Board, Ft. Benning, Ga.

A longer sling, with swivels remounted on the left side of the forearm and top rear of the buttstock, will aid in carrying the weapon in either the slung or underarm position.

The forearm assembly was replaced by a redesigned carrying handle attached directly to the barrel, allowing the gunner to quick-change barrels without touching the hot one. To reduce weight of the M-60, the gas cylinder and bipod legs were permanently attached, eliminating the need to carry extra cylinders and bipods for each barrel.

Change Army Training Title

The Army has changed its "Common Specialist Training" title to "Combat Support Training," according to the U.S. Continental Army Command (USCONARC), Ft. Monroe, Va.

Investigations showed that trainees did not understand the term "Common Specialist" and its relation to their training. Officials expect the new term to convey the importance of technical training more clearly.

A message to Army Training Centers set March 19 as the effective date and will constitute authority for the new title until publication of Change 3 to AR 320-50.

ALL SMILES — Majs. Bernard F. Fisher (left) and Stafford W. Meyers, USAF, are all smiles after a dramatic rescue in Vietnam. Maj. Meyers crash-landed his shot-up A-1E Skyraider on the North Vietnamese-held A Shau airstrip. Maj. Fisher landed right behind him, under heavy fire, and picked him up for a safe return to Pleiku.

20 High Schools Picked For AFROTC Program

Twenty high schools have been selected by Air Force to inaugurate a new high school ROTC program this fall.

The program was authorized by Congress in the ROTC Revitalization Act of 1964 and an initial increment of 30 schools has been approved for Air Force units. Applications are still being accepted at Maxwell AFB, Ala., for 10 more high schools which feel they can implement the program in September.

7th Atlas-Centaur Launch Vehicle Ready for Flight

The seventh Atlas-Centaur launch vehicle has been scheduled for a developmental flight from Cape Kennedy, Fla., no earlier than March 29, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has announced.

Centaur is a hydrogen-fueled upper-stage combined with an Atlas booster, designed for high-energy lunar and planetary missions. The mission will test its ability to restart its engines after a coast period in earth orbit.

If the test is successful, NASA's first operational mission using the Centaur will aim at placing a Surveyor spacecraft on the moon. The first Surveyor is scheduled for the second quarter of this year.

Army, Air Force Sponsor V/STOL Test Program

A 12-month research test program on V/STOL propulsive wing turbofan aircraft concepts is being jointly sponsored by Army and Air Force.

Program will determine the value of a propulsive wing approach to V/STOL flight. Air Force Systems Command's Flight Dynamics Laboratory, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, will manage the program, supported by Army Aviation Materiel Laboratory, Ft. Eustis, Va., and NASA's Langley Research Center, Va. Initial funding was approximately $500,000.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Brig. Gen. John D. Hines, USA, Commander, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Europe, named to command Defense Industrial Supply Center (DISC), Philadelphia, Pa., in July. **Brig. Gen. John M. Kenderdine, USA,** current CO, DISC, to command Defense Personnel Support Center, Philadelphia. **Maj. Gen. William C. Kinsbury, USAF,** former commander, 18th Strategic Aerospace Division, Fairchild AFB, Wash., to retire March 31. **RAdm. Magruder H. Tuttle, USN,** to command Naval Air Technical Training, NAS, Memphis, Tenn., in April. **RAdm. Allen Smith Jr., USN,** CNATECHTRA, Memphis, Tenn., to retire March 31.

CONTRACT AWARDS

Bruce Products, Inc., Eatontown, N. J.: $1,148,581 firm, fixed-price contract for 107,848 men's wet-weather parkas. **(DSA)**

Sperry-Utah Co., Salt Lake City, Utah: $2,061,610 cost plus incentive fee contract for the Sergeant Phase II ground electronics research and development program. **(Army)**

Sparton Corp., Jackson, Mich.: $8,740,999 fixed-price contract for production of sonobuoys and related equipment. **(Navy)**

Cleveland Pneumatic Tool Co., Cleveland, Ohio: $1,600,625 fixed-price order for production of landing gear components for KC-135 aircraft. **(Air Force)**